

REMARKS

This amendment is filed concurrently with a request to participate in the Patent Prosecution Highway program. By this amendment, claims 1-29 are cancelled and new claims 30-39 are added. Claims 30-39 are currently pending in the application, with claims 30 and 39 being independent claims.

In this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-29 from further consideration in this application. Applicant is not conceding that the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-29 is not patentable. Claims 1-29 were cancelled in this Amendment solely to facilitate expeditious prosecution of the remaining claims. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue additional claims, including the subject matter encompassed by claims 1-29, as presented prior to this Amendment in one or more continuing applications.”

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application 2002-312331 filed October 28, 2002.

A copy of the latest JPO office action (other than “Decision to Grant a Patent”) in the above-identified JPO application is submitted herewith.

An information disclosure statement listing the documents cited in the JPO office action is submitted herewith.

New claims 30-39 added by this amendment recite subject matter corresponding to claims 12-20 and 22 determined to be allowable by the Japanese Patent Office. Thus, the applicants believe claims 30-39 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 500510. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charged Deposit Account 500510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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